Graduation Requirements

Subject to the limitations and qualifications stated elsewhere in this catalog, the requirements for the baccalaureate degree are as follows:

- Undergraduate students should have their programs of study checked with their advisors at least three semesters before anticipated completion of degree and submit an “Application for Graduation.” All degree seeking undergraduate students expecting to graduate must apply for graduation no later than the semester before degree requirements are expected to be completed.
- To have a degree awarded, the graduation fee should be paid and all other financial obligations or “holds” must be satisfied or removed before the end of the semester that the student is planning to graduate.
- Students must earn at least 25 percent (30-34 credit hours) of their degree requirements in residence at Georgia Southern. The last 25 percent (30-34 credit hours) of credit must be earned at Georgia Southern, unless an exception is made for the student to be a transient student at another institution. A student cannot complete requirements immediately following the term he/she is in attendance as a transient student at another institution unless an official transcript of transient credit is received by the Office of the Registrar prior to the end of the semester at Georgia Southern.
- At least half of the courses required in the major must be taken at Georgia Southern.
- At least nine credit hours of the 15 required in the minor must be taken at Georgia Southern.
- At least 12 credit hours of the 18 required in the concentration must be taken at Georgia Southern. This requirement does not apply to the concentrations in the BIS degree.
- A maximum of three credit hours may be taken under the S/U grading system within any minor.
- The total institution cumulative GPA of all courses (at least 120 credit hours) applying to the degree must be 2.0.
- A student must fulfill all major, minor and specific requirements prescribed for the degree and satisfy the legal requirements with regard to evidence of an understanding of the History and Constitutions of Georgia and of the United States.
- A student must satisfy the Regents’ Test requirement for the University System of Georgia (USG). Exemptions will be evidence of competence and shall satisfy the requirement. All students completing Composition I (ENGL 1101) and Composition II (ENGL 1102) or their equivalents with a minimum grade of “C” will have satisfied this requirement.
- All students will be required to complete current requirements beyond the catalog, such as legislative, certification and Board of Regents requirements.
- Advisors may recommend course substitutions in the major when deemed necessary by submitting the request for approval to their Associate Dean. The substitution is then submitted to the Registrar who will review each request in accordance with the Board of Regents and institutional policies.
- For students whose initial enrollment is Fall 1998 and after, Strategies for Success (GSU 1120) will not apply to the degree.
- A minimum grade of “C” is required in all Area A1 and A2 courses.
- A maximum of five physical activity credit hours may be applied to the 124-135 hours required for a degree.
- Students typically satisfy the requirements for graduation listed in the catalog when they initially enroll at Georgia Southern. However, with the approval of their advisor, students enrolled Fall 2018 and after may elect to satisfy the graduation requirements specified in any of the catalogs in effect while they are enrolled. A change of major does not constitute a change of catalog for these students. If a major is changed after Fall 2018, students must satisfy semester major requirements. However, if a student has been out of school for 10 or more calendar years and re-enters, the current catalog requirements (at time of re-entry) will apply. Any exceptions require the approval of the advisor, department chair, and dean.
- All outstanding “I” or “IP” grades must be cleared and all transcripts from other institutions must be received before the end of the term the student plans to graduate.
- Courses earned with a “C” or higher grade to satisfy the Required High School Curriculum (RHSC) can also count toward graduation.

Degree Completion/Degree Awarding Policy

In compliance with Federal Guidelines effective Fall 2017, a student’s academic degree in their declared program of study will be awarded at the end of the term in which all degree requirements are successfully completed by the student, even if the student has not filed a degree application. Student degree will be awarded but the academic transcript will not be released until the graduation fee has been paid by the student.

Transcript/Holds/Graduation Fee

If a student has a non-academic hold on their record (i.e. Parking), the hold prevents releasing the transcript and the student will not be eligible to receive financial aid after the degree is awarded. The graduation fee will be placed on the student’s account and the student will not be eligible to receive financial aid after the degree is awarded.

Double Majors

A double major consists of two separate majors in the same baccalaureate degree (for example, B.S. with majors in Criminal Justice and Psychology or B.A. with majors in History and Modern Languages), regardless of the college or colleges in which that degree is awarded. A double major is earned when the student completes all requirements for each of the majors and all requirements for the degree. The minimum residence requirement of 21 credit hours in courses numbered 3000 or above in the major field of study must be met for the first major. If the second major is completed concurrently with the first major or within five calendar years of the first major, this requirement shall be deemed to have been satisfied for both majors. If the second major is not completed simultaneously with the first major, a student will not be eligible for financial aid after completion of degree award and the second major will not be listed on the transcript.

After five years from the date of the awarding of the first major, credit that was used to satisfy the university’s residence requirement cannot be applied toward the university’s residence requirement for the second major. Regardless of when the second major is completed.

At least one-half of the courses comprising both majors must be taken at Georgia Southern.

Whether in one degree or two, a student may not graduate with more than two majors. (For example, a student may not earn a B.S. with a double major in Biology and Psychology and also a B.A. in Writing & Linguistics. This would constitute three majors and would not be permissible.)

Second Degree with Additional Courses Needed after Primary Degree is Completed

If a second degree is not completed at the time of the first degree, the student will not be eligible for some types of financial aid after completion of the degree awarded for the first degree. The second degree will be noted on the transcript when awarded.
Minor(s) Sought for Completion after Primary Degree is Completed

No minor designation will be posted on the transcript in this scenario; only courses taken for the minor will appear on the transcript.

Second Majors

To earn two majors, both have to be under the same degree.

For example: B.A. Spanish/B.A. Biology or B.S. Psychology/B.S. Mathematics. Students seeking a second major within the same degree program must complete the specific requirements for both majors. An application for the second major must be submitted to the Office of the Registrar. Both majors will be noted on the transcript.

Dual Degrees

Dual degrees are earned when a student satisfies all requirements for two different baccalaureate degrees (for example, B.A. and B.S.) within one or more colleges of Georgia Southern. The minimum residence requirement of 21 credit hours in courses numbered 3000 or above in the major field of study must be met for the first major. If the second degree is completed concurrently with the first degree or within five calendar years of the first degree, this requirement shall be deemed to have been satisfied for both degrees. After five years from the date of the award of the first degree, credit that has been used to satisfy the university’s academic residence requirement for this degree cannot be applied toward the university’s minimum academic residence requirement for the second degree. Regardless of when the second degree is completed, both degrees require that at least one-half of the courses comprising the major must be taken at Georgia Southern. If a department offers more than one degree, it may prohibit a student from earning more than one degree in that department.

Graduation With Honors

Honors are computed in the Office of the Registrar and all questions concerning honors should be directed to that office. There are three sets of criteria in effect, and the set that applies is determined by the student’s first date of attendance at Georgia Southern. Only baccalaureate degree candidates are eligible to graduate with honors. Students seeking graduate degrees are not eligible for graduation with honors. The following requirements must be met:

1. At least 60 hours of credit must be earned at Georgia Southern. Hours enrolled in Spring for May candidates will be computed to reach the 60 hours. Spring and Summer hours enrolled for Summer candidates who elect to participate in the May graduation will be computed to reach the 60 hours. Hours enrolled in Fall for December candidates will be computed to reach the 60 hours. Attaining the required 60 hours will ensure that the candidate will be recognized as graduating with honors at the respective commencement ceremony.

2. To determine eligibility for recognition of graduation with honors at the ceremony, the student’s grade point average at the end of the term prior to the commencement ceremony will be used. After graduation and all final grades are recorded and all degree requirements are complete, honors are re-calculated and will be added to diplomas and transcripts, if honors are achieved.

3. The first GPA criterion is that the minimum average for a particular level of honors must be earned on all undergraduate course work taken at Georgia Southern.

4. The second GPA criterion is that the minimum average for a particular level of honors must be earned on all undergraduate course work attempted at all institutions attended.

5. If applying the two GPA criteria, the lower GPA will be used to assess the level of honors, if any.

6. The honors assigned and the scholastic records are:

| Cum Laude | 3.5 - 3.69 |
| Magna Cum Laude | 3.7 - 3.89 |
| Summa Cum Laude | 3.9 - 4.0 |

7. HONORS FOR SUBSEQUENT BACCALAUREATE DEGREES: In addition to the preceding, a third GPA criterion applies to students earning subsequent undergraduate degrees. The student must earn the minimum average for a particular level of honors on all course work taken between the most recent undergraduate degree and the current degree. The lowest of the three GPA calculations will be applied to assess the level of honors, if any.

8. HONORS FOR STUDENTS WHO SELECT ACADEMIC RENEWAL: Please refer to the policy regarding Academic Renewal.

9. ARMSTRONG AND LIBERTY CAMPUS STUDENTS ENROLLED PRIOR TO FALL 2018: Maybe eligible to receive historical honors using guidelines preceding the consolidation between Armstrong State University and Georgia Southern.